Project File MEMO

DATE: September 27, 2018

TO: Project File

FROM: William Brock,
FOREST FISH PROGRAM MGR. */s/ William Brock* Sep 27, 2018

Signature Date

SUBJECT: Ewing Reservoir Fuels Reduction Project
Fisheries Resource Input

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project will occur in a single 40 acre parcel of land in Hayfork Valley near the town of Hayfork positioned in T31N, R11W, S7, MDBM. The entire parcel is located within the watershed urban interface of the general area. It is estimated that the parcel has experienced no fire in over 100 years. This existing condition lends itself to a high-intensity fire that would be resistant to control. The desired condition is to limit future wildfires to surface fires that would be easier for firefighters to engage in. Regularly applied prescribed fires could result thereafter to retain the reduced fuels characteristics.

A thorough description and map of the project can be found in the "Decision Memo – Ewing Fuels Reduction Project". The action is categorically excluded from further documentation via NEPA by means of category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6). Several potential extraordinary circumstances that could drive NEPA analysis were found to not apply to this Project, therefore allowing for the CE to proceed.

One of the potential extraordinary circumstances that could have conceivably justified further analysis is stated in the DM as follows:

- **Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species**

This particular criteria will be analyzed below regarding federally listed fish or fish critical habitat, Forest Service Sensitive fish, Management Indicator Species Fish, or Essential Fish Habitat.

Federally listed Fish, Critical Habitat, Essential Fish Habitat, Management Indicator Species Fish, and USFS Sensitive Fish

ESA Species Considered:	Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts (SONCC) Coho Salmon; Threatened
ESA Critical Habitat:	SONCC Coho Salmon Critical Habitat

Essential Fish Habitat:	Coho and Chinook Salmon
USFS Sensitive Species:	Upper Trinity River (UTR) Chinook Salmon-fall run Klamath Mountain Province (KMP) Steelhead Pacific Lamprey
Management Indicator Fishes:	Winter-run steelhead, spring-run Chinook Salmon, Summer Steelhead, Rainbow Trout

Analysis of Potential Project Effects to the Fishes and Habitats Listed Above

The 40 acre parcel is situated about 0.75 miles west from privately owned reaches of Big Creek, a perennial tributary to Hayfork Creek. Big Creek possesses Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Coho Salmon Critical Habitat (CH) but probably seldom accommodates the salmonid fishes themselves. It also possibly accommodates the USFS Sensitive Pacific lamprey and the three MIS species on occasion. Hayfork Creek is located about 0.75 miles to the south and also possesses EFH and CH, and possibly accommodates the USFS Sensitive Pacific lamprey and the three MIS species intermittently.

A drainage 'swale' exists in the northern part of the parcel proposed for treatment. This is apparently intermittent and primarily dry, with no connection to any perennial water course.

The Proposed Action is accompanied by Resource Protection Measures included in the DM as Appendix A and Best Management Practices referred to in the DM and itemized in the Hydrology Review Project File MEMO. Taken together, the Project will have no effect to any of the fishes or habitats listed in this Project File Memo. The Hydrology Review concludes that there is no Sediment Discharge Potential into either of the two tributary stream courses described above so there will be no logical means by which the Proposed Action could affect the fish or habitats listed above via sediment, or the other 'Indicators' listed below.

The summarized effects to habitat indicators itemized in the Analytical Process for Developing Biological Assessments for Federal Actions Affecting Fish within the Northwest Plan Area (2004) follows. A 'zero' (0) determination represents a no effect conclusion or a neutral effect condition as a result of implementing this project.

Indicator	Ewing Fuels Reduction Project, brush cutting, thinning, prescribed burning
Temperature	**0**
Suspended Sediment / Turbidity	**0**

Chemical Contamination / Nutrients	**0**
Physical Barriers	**0**
Substrates / Embeddedness	**0**
Large Woody Debris	**0**
Pool Frequency and Quality	**0**
Large Pools	**0**
Off-channel Habitat	**0**
Refugia	**0**
Average Wetted Width / Maximum Depth pools	**0**
Streambank Condition	**0**
Floodplain Connectivity	**0**
Peak/Base Flows	**0**
Drainage Network	**0**
Road Density/Location	**0**
Disturbance History	**0**
Riparian Reserves	**0**

Note: 0= Neutral or No Effect

There will be no direct or indirect effects to the fish or fish habitats listed in this report. A trend toward ESA listing or loss of viability of the three Forest Service Sensitive Species listed on the USFS Regional Sensitive Species List and in this document is not anticipated and viability is not at risk. The Project does not adversely modify their habitat in the short or long term. Individual anadromous salmonids are not expected to be adversely impacted by the Project. The Project will have zero effect to the four MIS fish species that could conceivably occur adjacent to or downstream from the proposed Project area. The project will have no effect on salmon EFH. Implementation of the Project will not prevent attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives as per the Hydrology Review Project File Memo.

Literature Cited

USDA Forest Service, US Department of Commerce, US Department of the Interior-USFWS and BLM (USDA-USDC-USDI). 2004. Analytical Process for Developing Biological Assessments for Federal Actions Affecting Fish within the Northwest Forest Plan Area.

USDA Forest Service Shasta Trinity National Forest Decision Memo, Ewing Fuels Reduction Project, 2018.

USDA Forest Service Shasta Trinity National Forest, Hydrology Review Project File Memo 2018.